



SUPPORT TEAM FOR EDUCATION
IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

Supporting your Child at Home with Reading

Top tips - listening to your child read



Make it **fun!**

Little and often is best.

Be a **positive role model** - let your child see you reading for pleasure.

Try to choose a book that is interesting **to your child** and **relevant to their age**.

Before starting, **make the environment comfortable**, sitting side by side so both of you can see the book

Discuss the book before reading - look at the blurb, pictures and title.

When your child **struggles to read a word**, encourage them to break it down into sounds and then blend the sounds together to form the word. Help them if you need to and don't leave them to struggle for too long!

When your child **begins to tire**, you can read to them.

Talk about the story at natural breaks to check understanding and explain unknown words. Listen and give thinking time - don't do all the talking!

Be **specific with praise** to encourage repeated use of strategies, or example, '*I like the way you broke that long word into chunks*'.

Be **patient**, show interest and pleasure.



Paired reading

Paired reading is a great way to help with developing accuracy and pace of reading and it's fun! The reader makes the book choice and has control over the amount of help they get.

- **Books** - or comics, magazines - your child can choose any reading material.
- **Time** - try to read for about 10 minutes every day.
- **Find a quiet space, get comfy** and enjoy the book!
- Begin by **reading together**. Adjust your speed and rhythm so that you are both reading in time together. You should correct any errors by modelling the correct pronunciation of the word and then continuing.
- When your **child feels ready to read alone**, they should tap you on the arm.
- If they would like to **have more support**, your child can tap again and you can then join in with the reading.
- Make time to **discuss the story afterwards** and check comprehension.

Supporting comprehension

- **Make connections** - do we already know anything about the topic of the book?
- **Make predictions** - what is happening, what might happen next, how will the story end?
- **Encourage visualising** - this can include drawing and drama to make connections between what is known and new ideas.
- **Ask questions:** why, who, what, when, where? Encouraging your child to ask questions for you to answer is a fun way to monitor their understanding too!